

STATEHOOD CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION (1895) ^[170]

CONVENTION RECORDS, 1895.

2 cu. ft. and 5 microfilm reels

DESCRIPTION: In July 1894, the U.S. Congress enacted a law to enable the territory of Utah to be admitted into the Union as a state. The act spelled out the calling of a convention composed of 107 delegates to meet beginning in March 1895 to draw up a state constitution. These records are the papers of that convention. They include a copy of the federal enabling act; roll call; transcripts, published and unpublished, of the proceedings; files of proposals, petitions, and other recommendations for inclusion in the state constitution; and a limited number of committee reports, minutes and notes.

Proceedings

The proceedings of the 66-day convention were typed verbatim; a few pages of the typed transcripts are missing. Each day is numbered, including those Saturdays and Sundays the group did not meet, so members could collect their per diem allowance for those days as well. Toward the end of the convention, arrangements were made to have the proceedings published. Rarely portions in the typed transcripts were expunged and do not appear in the published copy, but for the most part, the published version matches the typed.

The transcripts cover the discussions and debates of the convention in detail. Procedural matters include rules, the appointment of committees, order of business, employing a stenographer, choosing office furnishings, and arranging publication of the proceedings. Constitutional topics follow specifications in the enabling act or those topics considered important by the delegates. These include a preamble and bill of rights; education and school lands; elections and apportionment; the formation and responsibilities of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government; municipal and non-municipal corporations; public lands and buildings; the militia; labor and arbitration; taxation, revenue and public

debts; water rights; mining; and suggestions for future legislation and means of amending the constitution. Many of these topics involved protracted debate; two highly debated items were female suffrage and prohibition.

Entries for a typical day usually begin with a call to order, roll, a prayer, and reading of the previous day's minutes. Petitions and memorials were then noted and referred to the appropriate committee. Any standing committee ready to report did so, and its report, a formally written article proposed for inclusion in the constitution, was sent for printing and placed on the calendar. Next, propositions relating to particular items desired included in the constitution were submitted and referred to the appropriate committee. Finally, the convention resolved itself into a committee-of-the-whole for consideration of one or more of the committee reports.

Files

The numbered files contain petitions, memorials and proposals. Petitions and memorials were sent by individuals or groups with a particular interest. Proposals were statements, worded appropriately for inclusion as a section in a constitutional article, introduced by one of the members of the convention. Except for the first memorial, all were assigned file numbers. (The first memorial was simply called memorial #1; those received later however, were incorporated into the regular files.) Initially many were read into the proceedings; later they were simply noted by file number and topic. Many of the files are missing: about a third of those from number 1-150. All after 154 are missing; most of these were petitions regarding female suffrage, with a lesser number relating to prohibition.

Committee Reports

Committee reports usually include a cover letter noting what files were used in the preparation of the report, and a copy of a proposed article in the constitution. Several of these as well are missing in all or in part. Notably, reports from the Preamble and Declaration of Rights Committee; the Municipal Corporations Committee; the Schedule and Future, Amendments, and Miscellaneous Committee; the Elections and Right of Suffrage Committee; the Legislative Committee; the Apportionment and Boundaries Committee; and the Militia Committee are all missing drafts of articles which should accompany them.

Rarely committee items other than reports appear in these records. The Committee of Manufactures and Commerce also has minutes and notes, the latter primarily relating to the metric system. Two other committees have miscellaneous notes included as well. The committee on Elections and Suffrage has a letter from a Sidney Hudson, who apparently had been petitioning the legislative assembly since 1874 regarding the nominative franchise, and a proposal from Fred J. Kiesel, one of the committee members, regarding voter qualifications. The legislative committee also received a letter from Hudson. Neither the Hudson letters nor the Kiesel proposal appear ever to have been formally submitted, numbered, and referred to the committees.

Revisions and Publications

The final revision notes, for the article entitled "Congressional and Legislative Apportionment" only, are also included in the records. The location of final revision notes for the other articles, as noted in the proceedings, is unknown. A draft copy of the journal (the transcripts as printed with editing comments) is present. Finally, a two volume publication, copyright 1898, contains a copy of the enabling act, a transcript of the proceedings (with rare additional editing or expunging), and a copy of the Utah state constitution to be submitted to the voters. Following its publication, a statement of the total costs of the convention, including those of publication, was filed.

ARRANGEMENT: The series is arranged by document type. Minutes are chronological by numbered days. File and committee reports are numerical, the number usually assigned chronologically.

RELATED RECORDS: The original STATE CONSTITUTION created by this convention is series 3214. DOCKETS, logging the assignment of petitions, committee reports, etc. are series 12795.

PROCESSING NOTE: Records of the convention were turned over to the Secretary of State. In turn these were transferred to the archives by 1957. Archivally processed by A.C. Cone in 1990, the series was microfilmed in 1994.

CONTAINER LIST

Reel	Box	Folder	Description
1	1	1a	Federal enabling act
1	1	1b	Roll call book
1	1	2	Transcript of Proceedings; First Day: Monday, March 4, 1895
1	1	3	Transcript of Proceedings; Second Day: Tuesday, March 5, 1895
1	1	4	Transcript of Proceedings; Third Day: Wednesday, March 6, 1895
1	1	5	Transcript of Proceedings; Fourth Day: Thursday, March 7, 1895
1	1	6	Transcript of Proceedings; Fifth Day: Friday, March 8, 1895
1	1	7	Transcript of Proceedings; Eighth Day: Monday, March 11, 1895
1	1	8	Transcript of Proceedings; Ninth Day: Tuesday, March 12, 1895
1	1	9	Transcript of Proceedings; Tenth Day: Wednesday, March 13, 1895

Reel	Box	Folder	Description
1	1	10	Transcript of Proceedings; Eleventh Day: Thursday, March 14, 1895
1	1	11	Transcript of Proceedings; Twelfth Day: Friday, March 15, 1895
1	1	12	Transcript of Proceedings; Thirteenth Day: Saturday, March 16, 1895
1	1	13	Transcript of Proceedings; Fifteenth Day: Monday, March 18, 1895
1	1	14	Transcript of Proceedings; Sixteenth Day: Tuesday, March 19, 1895
1	1	15	Transcript of Proceedings; Seventeenth Day: Wednesday, March 20, 1895
1	1	16	Transcript of Proceedings; Eighteenth Day: Thursday, March 21, 1895
1	1	17	Transcript of Proceedings; Nineteenth Day: Friday, March 22, 1895
1	1	18	Transcript of Proceedings; Twentieth Day: Saturday, March 23, 1895
1	1	19	Transcript of Proceedings; Twenty-Second Day: Monday, March 25, 1895
1	1	20	Transcript of Proceedings; Twenty-Third Day: Tuesday, March 26, 1895
1	1	21	Transcript of Proceedings; Twenty Fourth Day: Wednesday, March 27, 1895
1	1	22	Transcript of Proceedings; Twenty Fifth Day: Thursday, March 28, 1895
1	1	23	Transcript of Proceedings; Twenty-Sixth Day: Friday, March 29, 1895
1	1	24	Transcript of Proceedings; Twenty-Seventh Day: Saturday, March 30, 1895
2	1	25	Transcript of Proceedings; Twenty-Ninth Day: Monday, April 1, 1895
2	1	26	Transcript of Proceedings;

Reel	Box	Folder	Description
			Thirtieth Day: Tuesday, April 2, 1895
2	1	27	Transcript of Proceedings; Thirty-First Day: Wednesday, April 3, 1895
2	1	28	Transcript of Proceedings; 32nd Day: Thursday, April 4, 1895
2	1	29	Transcript of Proceedings; 33rd Day: Friday, April 5, 1895
2	1	30	Transcript of Proceedings; 36th Day: Monday, April 8, 1895
2	1	31	Transcript of Proceedings; 37th Day: Tuesday, April 9, 1895
2	1	32	Transcript of Proceedings; 38th Day: Wednesday, April 10, 1895
2	1	33	Transcript of Proceedings; 39th Day: Thursday, April 11, 1895
2	1	34	Transcript of Proceedings; 40th Day: [Friday], April 12, 1895
2	1	35	Transcript of Proceedings; 41st Day: Saturday, April 13, 1895
2	1	36	Transcript of Proceedings; 43rd Day: Monday, April 15, 1895
2	1	37	Transcript of Proceedings; 44th Day: Tuesday, April 16, 1895
2	1	38	Transcript of Proceedings; 45th Day: Wednesday, April 17, 1895; start to p. 45- 136
3	1	38	Transcript of Proceedings; 45th Day: Wednesday, April 17, 1895; p. 45-136 to end
3	1	39	Transcript of Proceedings; 46th Day: Thursday, April 18, 1895
3	1	40	Transcript of Proceedings; 47th Day: Friday, April 19, 1895
3	1	41	Transcript of Proceedings; 48th Day: Saturday, April 20, 1895
3	2	1	Transcript of Proceedings; Fiftieth Day: Monday, April 22, 1895
3	2	2	Transcript of Proceedings; 51st Day: Tuesday, April 23, 1895
3	2	3	Transcript of Proceedings; 51st Day: Tuesday, April 23, 1895 Evening Session
3	2	4	Transcript of Proceedings; [52nd Day]: Wednesday, April 24, 1895
3	2	5	Transcript of Proceedings; [53rd Day]: Thursday, April 25, 1895

Reel	Box	Folder	Description
3	2	6	Transcript of Proceedings; 54th Day: Friday, April 26, 1895
3	2	7	Transcript of Proceedings; 55th Day: Saturday, April 25 [27], 1895
3	2	8	Transcript of Proceedings; 57th Day: Monday, April 28 [29], 1895
3	2	9	Transcript of Proceedings; [58th Day: Tuesday, April 30, 1895]; start to p. 58-59
4	2	9	Transcript of Proceedings; [58th Day: Tuesday, April 30, 1895]; p. 58-59 to end
4	2	10	Transcript of Proceedings; 59th Day: Wednesday, May 1, 1895
4	2	11	Transcript of Proceedings; 60th Day: Thursday, May 2, 1895
4	2	12	Transcript of Proceedings; 61st Day: Friday, May 3, 1895
4	2	13	Transcript of Proceedings; 62nd Day: Saturday, May 4, 1895
4	2	14	Transcript of Proceedings; 64th Day: Monday, May 6, 1895
4	2	15	Transcript of Proceedings; 65th Day: Tuesday, May 7, 1895
4	2	16	Transcript of Proceedings; 66th Day: Wednesday, May 8, 1895
4	2	17	Memorial 1: March 13, 1895
4	2	18	Files; 1-10; March 11, 1895
4	2	19	Files; 11-20; March 12, 1895
4	2	20	Files; 21-28; March 12, 1895
4	2	21	Files; 31-39; March 12-14, 1895
4	2	22	Files; 41-50; March 14, 1895
4	2	23	Files; 51-59; March 14, 1895
4	2	24	Files; 61a-70; March 15, 1895
4	2	25	Files; 72-80; March 15, 1895
4	2	26	Files; 81-88; March 15, 1895
4	2	27	Files; 94-100; March 16-18, 1895
4	2	28	Files; 101-110; March 18, 1895
4	2	29	Files; 111-119; March 18-19, 1895
4	2	30	Files; 121-129; March 19-20, 1895
4	2	31	Files; 131-138; March 18-22, 1895
4	2	32	Files; 143-154; March 23, 1895
4	2	33	File Assignments
4	2	34	Committee Reports; 1-5; March 16-21, 1895
4	2	35	Committee Reports; 6-10; March 22-27, 1895
4	2	36	Committee Reports; 11-15; March

Reel	Box	Folder	Description
			28-April 1, 1895
4	2	37	Committee Reports; 16-20; April 2-19, 1895
4	2	38	Committee Reports; 21-27; April 19-30, 1895
4	2	39	Committee Papers; Elections & Suffrage
4	2	40	Committee Papers; Legislative
4	2	41	Committee Papers; Manufacture & Commerce
4	2	42a	Final Revisions, Article IX
4	2	42b	Journal of the Convention
4	2	43	Official Report of the Proceedings and Debates of the Convention Assembled at Salt Lake City on the Fourth Day of March, 1895, to Adopt a Constitution for the State of Utah, vol. I. Star Printing Company, Salt Lake City, 1898. Start to p. 275
5	2	43	Official Report of the Proceedings and Debates of the Convention Assembled at Salt Lake City on the Fourth Day of March, 1895, to Adopt a Constitution for the State of Utah, vol. I. Star Printing Company, Salt Lake City, 1898. p. 275-end
5	2	44	Official Report....Volume II. Star Printing Company, Salt Lake City, 1898.
5	2	45	Convention costs statement